

Tentative Agenda (Updated 7/12/06)

**2006 National CREP Forum
“CREP: Creative Solutions, Multiple Benefits, Many Partners”**

**August 14-17, 2006
The Cornhusker – A Marriott Hotel
Lincoln, Nebraska**

August 14, 2006	
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Early Registration
Beginning at 2:00 p.m. Details TBD	Preconference Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watershed Management Tour• Self-guided Walking Tour of Lincoln• Golfing with Greg
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception
August 15, 2006	
7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Introductions Moderator - Brian Wolford, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency, Nebraska Introduction of Forum Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nebraska Association of Resource Districts• Nebraska Department of Agriculture• Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality• Nebraska Department of Natural Resources• Nebraska Game and Parks Commission• USDA Farm Service Agency, Nebraska• USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nebraska• Pheasants Forever• Members of the Forum Planning Committee
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Opening Address and Welcome Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	National CREP Perspective Moderator - Brian Wolford <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current Status and Accomplishments; Updates on CREP Policy and Implementation John Johnson, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs USDA FSA

	<p>(confirmed); Tom Christensen, Deputy Chief for Programs, Natural Resources Conservation Service (confirmed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask Washington John Johnson, Deputy Administrator USDA FSA; Mike Linsenbigler, Deputy Director, CEPD, FSA Washington, DC; Charles Chadwell, Manager CREP, CEPD, FSA Washington, DC; Paul Harte, Technical Manager, CEP, CEPD, FSA Washington, DC; Tom Christensen, Deputy Chief for Programs, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	<p>Forum Luncheon</p> <p>Keynote Address USDA Secretary Mike Johanns (confirmed)</p>
1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <p>Session A – Creative Solutions for Water Quantity Needs Moderator – Steve Chick, State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nebraska</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and regional water quantity concerns – Michael Jess, Assistant Director, Water Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln • Nebraska’s water quantity CREP – Ann Bleed, Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources • Developing water lease agreements and monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What the federal CREP office expects – Charles Chadwell, Manager CREP, CEPD, Washington DC ○ Nebraska’s Platte-Republican CREP water leases – Pam Andersen, Legal Counsel, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources ○ Nebraska’s Platte-Republican CREP monitoring efforts – Jeremy Gehle, Natural Resources Specialist, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources • Panel Q&A <p>Session B – Meeting Water Quality Needs Moderator – Mike Linder, Director, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State/regional water quality issues – Marty Link, Associate Administrator, Water Quality Program, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality • CREP solutions – Greg Anderson, Program Specialist, Minnesota Farm Service Agency • Buffer and filter strips: understanding the benefits – Max Schnepf, former NRCS coordinator of the National Conservation Buffer Initiative • The Nebraska Buffer Strip Program – Scott Sobotka, Assistant Manager, Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District, Beatrice, Nebraska • Panel Q&A
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <p>Session A – Creative Solutions for Water Quantity Needs (continued) Moderator – Ann Bleed, Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing water quantity issues through Natural Resources Conservation Service programs – Steve Chick, State Conservationist, USDA NRCS

	<p>Nebraska</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other creative water quantity CREPs; Colorado's new program – Scott Richrath, Program Manager, Colorado Division of Water Resources • Addressing water use and conservation through outreach and education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Perspective from the local level, a Natural Resources District experience – Dan Smith, Manager, Middle Republican Natural Resources District ○ The Republican River Education Coalition example and other unique partnerships – Jennifer Wemhoff, Program Manager, The Groundwater Foundation • Panel Q&A <p>Session B – Maintaining Wildlife Benefits in CRP Through Mid-Contract Management Moderator – Rex Amack, Director, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-contract management: what, why, and how? – Pete Berthelsen, Senior Field Coordinator for Pheasants Forever • Measuring wildlife benefits from mid-contract management – Lucas Negus, Nebraska Natural Legacy Project Coordinator and Northern Prairies Land Trust • Panel Q&A
6:00 p.m.	<p>Dinner</p> <p>Moderator - Brian Wolford</p> <p>Celebrating 20 years of CRP – Teresa Lasseter, Administrator, USDA FSA</p>
August 16, 2006	
7:00 a.m. – Noon	Registration and Daily Registration
8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	<p>Highlights from New, Successful, and Innovative CREPs Moderator - Bobbie Kriz-Wickham, policy analyst, Nebraska Department of Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nebraska – Greg Reisdorff, Conservation and Environmental Programs Chief, USDA FSA, Nebraska • Louisiana – David Carnline, Conservation Program Specialist, Louisiana Farm Service Agency • North Carolina – Tim Jones, Conservation Program Specialist, North Carolina Farm Service Agency • Vermont – Roger Allbee, State Executive Director, Vermont Farm Service Agency • Panel Q&A (15 minutes per state with a 15-minute Q&A at end)
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <p>Session A – CREP Nuts and Bolts Topics to be covered by Mike Linsenbigler, Deputy Director, CEPD, FSA Washington, DC; Chad Chadwell, Manager CREP, CEPD, FSA Washington, DC; and Paul Harte, Technical Manager, CEP, CEPD, FSA Washington, DC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basics to approval process • Changing and amending agreements • CREP reporting requirements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Q&A <p>Session B – Coalescing Resource Benefits through Partnerships Moderator – Scott Merritt, Executive Director, Nebraska Corn Growers Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based planning partnerships; how to involve citizens in creating solutions to resource problems – Elbert Traylor, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality • Building partnerships for outstanding CREPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Indiana experience – Doug Hovermale, Indiana Farm Service Agency ○ The Idaho experience – Ron Abbott, Farm Program Chief, Idaho Farm Service Agency • Panel Q&A
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <p>Session A – CREP Nuts and Bolts (continued) Topics to be covered by Mike Linsenbigler, Deputy Director, CEPD, FSA Washington, DC; Chad Chadwell, Manager CREP, CEPD, FSA Washington, DC; and Paul Harte, Technical Manager, CEP, CEPD, FSA Washington, DC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the future holds? • Expiring CREP contracts and agreements • Fully enrolled CREPs, closing out a CREP agreement • Panel Q&A <p>Session B – Fostering Wildlife Through CREP and Other Programs Moderator – Tim McCoy, Ag Program Manager, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened and endangered species benefits from CREP - the Oregon example – Lois Loop, Program Specialist, Oregon Farm Service Agency • Creatively addressing wildlife needs with CREP – Pete Berthelsen, Senior Field Coordinator for Pheasants Forever • Planting and planning for wildlife habitat – Ritch Nelson, State Wildlife Biologist, Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service • Panel Q&A
12:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<p>Field and Farm Tour (Boxed Lunch on Tour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm with CREP, CCRP, and CRP • CRP Mid-contract management on the ground • Environmental remediation using natural plantings • University of Nebraska Agricultural Research and Development Center – featuring working demonstrations of irrigation, carbon sequestration research and other subjects • E3 BioFuels – tour ongoing development of a self-sustaining, closed loop system that includes a solid waste management facility, an ethanol plant and a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO)
	Dinner on your own
August 17, 2006	
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Partner and Participants Perspectives on CREP

	<p>Moderator – Steve Riley, Assistant Division Administrator, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers and landowners discuss their CREP projects and how they fit into their goals and operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Central Basins CREP – Jerry Barger, CRP, WRP and CREP contract holder, Greenwood, Nebraska ○ Platte-Republican CREP – Ron Friehe, CREP contract holder, McCook, Nebraska • Partners discuss the unique relationships they have forged through CREP and praise and concern about the program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pheasants Forever – Pete Berthelsen, Senior Field Coordinator for Pheasants Forever ○ Natural Resources Districts – Ron Cacek, Manager, North Platte Natural Resources District, Gering, Nebraska ○ Congressional Partner – Bob Bettger, Agricultural Field Representative for Nebraska Congressman Tom Osborne • Panel Q&A
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<p>Wrap up and Close</p> <p>Summary Comments Nebraska Perspective – Brian Wolford, State Executive Director, USDA FSA, Nebraska Washington Perspective – Chad Chadwell, Manager CREP, CEPD, FSA Washington, DC</p>